

# Memorandum



**Date:** September 9, 2005

**To:** Honorable Carlos Alvarez, Mayor  
Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez and Members,  
Board of County Commissioners

**From:** George M. Burgess  
County Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Burgess", written over the printed name of George M. Burgess.

**Subject:** Hurricane Katrina - Weekly Update 1

The following will provide you with an update on items related to Hurricane Katrina recovery and relief efforts. This update will be provided to the Mayor and Board of County Commissioners on a weekly basis. Separate reports on issues raised at the Board Workshop or by individual memoranda are being prepared and will be distributed as finalized.

## **Relief Efforts**

**Warehouse** – The Hurricane Katrina Relief Drive warehouse in support of the Board's Relief Drive opened on Thursday, September 8, 2005 and will remain open until September 28, 2005. The warehouse is located at 2361 NW 67 Avenue and its daily hours of operation are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. All fire and police stations, as well as Team Metro offices are open to receive donated goods. County employees, as well as community volunteers, are assisting in this effort.

**Emergency Disaster Relief Fund** – The Board adopted a resolution, sponsored by Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan, creating an emergency disaster relief fund to benefit victims of natural disasters and to aid in rebuilding communities affected by natural disasters. Staff is establishing a trust fund for these monies. Only checks will be accepted. **Donation checks must be made payable to "Board of County Commissioners" and must include the name of organization or activity that the funds are dedicated to in the memo section of the check.** This will ensure that the donation is deposited in the correct fund. Forward donation checks to Mario Morlote in the Office of Strategic Business Management for processing. Mr. Morlote will deposit the checks and keep track of all donations received.

**Board Allocations/Donations** – A separate trust fund for monies collected for the Red Cross is being established as well. Total Board allocations to non-profit organizations, including the American Red Cross, Salvation Army and United Way, for relief efforts in Miami-Dade County and the Gulf Coast are \$100,000. In addition, the Latin Builders Association has donated, through the Board, \$250,000 to the American Red Cross.

	American Red Cross	Salvation Army	United Way	County Relief Fund
Chairman Martinez	\$10,000 (local) \$10,000 (Gulf)			\$5,000 (volunteers) \$5,000 (convoy)
Commissioner Jordan				\$10,000
Commissioner Sosa	\$5,000 (local) \$5,000 (Gulf)			
Commissioner Gimenez	\$10,000			
Commissioner Souto	\$10,000	\$10,000		
Commissioner Diaz	\$10,000 (local) \$10,000 (Gulf)			
Commissioner Seijas		\$10,000	\$10,000	
Latin Builders Association	\$250,000			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$320,000</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>

Additionally, on September 9, 2005, Chairman Martinez allocated \$5,000 to the County's relief operation warehouse and \$5,000 to the actual convoy to Mississippi. Along with Commissioner Jordan's allocation of \$10,000, this brings the total in the County's disaster relief fund to \$20,000.

*Donation of Leave Time* - Chairman Joe A. Martinez sponsored and the Board adopted a resolution making it possible for County employees to contribute a portion of annual and holiday leave time to assist those impacted by Hurricane Katrina through the American Red Cross. The contribution of leave time can be made by contacting the Departmental Personnel Representative (DPR).

### ***Debris***

All Solid Waste Management (SWM) garbage routes are being serviced normally. There were 30 County Bulky Waste Crews and 171 County-contracted crews working on Thursday, September 8, 2005. Total tonnage collected since start of recovery is in excess of 90,000 tons which translates to approximately 16,000 truck loads. This is more than half the amount of bulky waste that is normally collected for an entire year by the department's bulky waste crews. About 60,000 cubic yards of cleared debris has been turned into mulch.

SWM has opened the first debris staging site at the future South Kendall Regional Park (SW 168th Street and 157th Avenue). The staging site has provided efficiency of effort as crews are able to quickly off-load debris and return to their assigned clearing area rather than wait at a disposal site.

SWM has been using in-house and contract crews to pick up and haul debris throughout the waste service area including the municipalities the County serves. In order to comply with FEMA regulations, the County is providing debris hauling monitors to supervise each and every crew. I have asked County departments to provide employees that can serve in this capacity.

### ***FEMA***

On Wednesday, September 7, 2005, the Federal Register included the official declaration language for Hurricane Katrina (DR-1602) and unlike any previous declaration for Miami-Dade County, it excludes debris removal from the 100 percent cost eligibility for the first 72 hours. It also sets the federal share at 75 percent. The state has indicated that it will pick up 12.5 percent of costs, making the County responsible for the remaining 12.5 percent.

An emergency declaration has been signed by the President to reimburse Florida agencies incurring costs associated with helping those evacuating from the Gulf states impacted by Hurricane Katrina - FEMA-3220-ER-FL. This is an emergency declaration only and applies to Category B only (Emergency Protective Measures).

### ***Tracker/Deployments***

The Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department's Urban Search and Rescue Team, Florida Task Force 1, returned to Fire Rescue Headquarters on Thursday, September 8, 2005.

Miami-Dade Aviation staff has been in contact with their professional aviation consortium about a request for personnel to be deployed to Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. Aviation has deployed five operations personnel and they are in route.

### ***Human Services***

The Community Action Agency (CAA) is responding to the current and emerging needs of individuals adversely impacted by the disaster. Emergency assistance vouchers have been distributed to clients

seeking assistance with food, clothing and lodging. Additionally, CAA's Self-Help Division is providing counseling and assistance regarding the emerging resettlement issues encountered by the victims of Hurricane Katrina from the Gulf Coast region who have migrated to the County. This is inclusive of direct assistance, information and referral services related to our Head Start/Early Head Start program, the Miami-Dade County Public School system, health agencies and the State of Florida's public assistance system.

As of September 8, 2005, five (5) families from the Gulf Coast area have contacted CAA seeking assistance. Two (2) families were provided with emergency relief assistance vouchers for food, lodging and clothing. Three (3) additional families are scheduled to return to the department on Monday, September 12 for a follow-up appointment.

The Homeless Trust, through our contracted provider network, is aware of three (3) individuals who hitch-hiked to the City of Miami from New Orleans. The City of Miami Beach is receiving calls as well. One individual was placed at the Homeless Assistance Center (HAC), the second at Miami Rescue Mission, and the third did not obtain services. A family was placed at our South Dade HAC from the Gulf. A family who was displaced locally from the Aquarius Trailer Park is at a hotel through the Red Cross, but will leave tomorrow.

The Homeless Trust is reaching out to FEMA for Public Assistance funds that may be available for housing placement services. Houston's Homeless Coalition reports 1,500 families will be placed into apartments via FEMA assistance. The Homeless Trust Executive Committee will be addressing hurricane assistance at their September 9, 2005 meeting. Our current ability to shelter families is over capacity.

### ***Public Works***

Of the County's 2,625 traffic signal locations, a large percentage was affected by Hurricane Katrina. As of today, 95 percent of the traffic signals are operational. There are 115 signals which have communication failures (signals may be operational, but there is no communications with the control center), nine (9) are non-operational due to power failure and eight (8) are on the flash mode. A total of 367 traffic signals with hanging/twisted signal heads have been repaired, and 55 still require repair. Approximately 400 intersections need bulb replacement due to filtration of humidity.

Repairs are completed on 950 downed or damaged stop signs. Approximately 1,500 additional traffic signs remain in need of repair and crews continue to repair/replace signage throughout the County. The street lighting system sustained damages with approximately 52 poles knocked down, of which 24 poles have been reinstalled; of the 14 poles which had missing arms, 7 have been repaired; and 37 of the approximately 44 poles with missing luminaries have been repaired.

The clearing of all arterial, collector and section line roadways is completed. In addition, 100 percent of the local roads have been inspected and cleared. **Although all County roadways are open to vehicular traffic, it should be noted that trees continue to fall and will do so until the saturated ground dries out.** All contractor assets have been released and force account staff remains to address recently fallen trees.

As a result of a windshield inspection it is determined that considerable tree stumps will remain subsequent to the SWD debris removal effort. FEMA's policy considers stumps completely out of the ground as debris and should be removed through the SWD debris collection effort. Fallen trees which have roots remaining in the ground are considered stumps and FEMA will pay for the removal of the stump and back-fill of the hole subsequent to removal.

Although staff inspected those roadways which sustained severe flooding, the anticipated damage is not yet known. The complaint volume for pothole repairs is projected to increase and will be in conjunction with the expected daily rainfalls. Preliminary inspections reveal an impact to the drainage infrastructure by vegetative debris and silt from the heavy rainfall (6" to 20") which occurred over a three (3) hour period. It is believed the cleaning effort funded by FEMA subsequent to the no-name storm and Tropical Storm Irene has been severely compromised. Please note that drain cleaning staff is being utilized to address site specific drain cleaning requests and have put out all available street sweepers to collect as much vegetative material and silt present in gutters before it can enter the drainage infrastructure.

The countywide assessment shows that currently 730 trees planted by the County are down in the medians and are in need of replacement. An additional 2,355 were also down, of which 1,756 have been reset.

At this time, we have identified one (1) location with a damaged guardrail due to the hurricane and have completed **28 percent** of the survey for the entire county with force account staff.

The aerial inspection of the County Secondary Canal System has been completed and 289 trees were observed in the system, none of which are impeding the flow. This effort has been turned over to DERM to effect the removal of fallen trees by contract.

### ***Water and Sewer***

As of Thursday, September 8, 2005, all 980 Water and Sewer Department's Pump Stations are operational and powered by Florida Power & Light. All Water and Sewer plants are in service. Standby power is being operated on a limited basis at the water plants. No sewage spills have been reported.

In addition, no water services require repair. Only one water main located at 1251 Bird Road requires repair but can't be accessed due to a 40 ft pile of debris. As soon as the Solid Waste Department is able to remove the debris, repairs will be completed.

The natural gas supply is adequate at this time but reduction in availability may affect operations at any time causing lower quality water (increased color but meeting all primary drinking water standards). Prices are expected to spike but we don't know how high they will go, or how long this situation will last. There is likely to be significant budget impacts. A total of 1 load of diesel fuel was received as of yesterday at WASD Black Point Plant.

### ***Agricultural Efforts***

- County staff has discussions with the Florida Department of Agriculture, Staff of Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart and the USDA Farm Service Agency regarding aid for farmers and farm workers. The Governor has not requested aid from the USDA as is part of the protocol in these situations.
- Miami-Dade Fire Rescue is working with the industry to ease the process of obtaining burn permits.
- The State of Florida will not allow mulching of debris due to Citrus Canker.

- Staff met with Coalition of Florida Farmworker Organizations (COFFO) to discuss needs and assistance for farm workers. Some private/charitable organizations have provided funds and/or food.
- Staff is working with the Coalition of Florida Farm Worker Organizations (COFFO) to utilize the County's 311 service to provide information regarding assistance to farm workers.

***Fuel***

We continue to monitor the County's fuel supply and there are no major changes to report at this time. We continue to be in good shape and are receiving regular deliveries. GSA is developing contingency plans in the event a fuel reduction plan is required in the future.

Attached also please find a Hurricane Katrina assistance update from the American Red Cross as of September 7, 2005.

If you have any questions, please contact Assistant County Manager, Susanne Torriente at (305) 375-5593, or me directly.

C: Assistant County Managers  
Department Directors